

Dorchester Sheroes Update:

- **Location Importance**
- **Examples & Impact**
- **Outreach & Schools Engagement**

The Significance of a High Street Location for the Statue

Our selected woman of history must occupy a prominent position and not be "tucked away." Hiding them undermines our mission to highlight and honour overlooked and marginalised women. A town centre location maximises interest and engagement, drawing residents and tourists alike, thereby supporting the local economy in numerous ways. This prominent placement ensures the statue garners the attention and recognition it deserves.

Our chosen artist, Denise Dutton, envisions her works of art as being "amongst the people." Like her previous commissions, this statue will be placed at an interactive, ground-level spot rather than elevated on a pedestal, ensuring it remains accessible and engaging. Placing the statue in a central, accessible location aligns perfectly with our shared vision and maintains its intended integrity.

Points to note when considering the location of the statue.

- **Accessibility:** The statue must be accessible to all, including those with mobility challenges. It's also essential for people with visual impairments to touch and feel the artwork, as they are often excluded from a world of art that primarily caters to the sighted
- **24/7 Availability:** The statue needs to be accessible 24/7. It should not be in a building or place that is closed to the public at certain times of the day.
- **Visibility and Proximity:** The statue should be located where you might come across it (rather than seek it out), close to cafes and shops to draw trade, and easy to find for non-residents. Ultimately, the statue will help support town centre regeneration.
- **Interactive Space:** The statue needs to be in a location where people can interact with it, take photos and selfies, and increase the likelihood of photos identifying Dorchester as a destination.
- **Heritage Trail Access:** Within easy accessibility to the Dorchester Heritage Trail and the many historical walking tours.
- **National significance:** the statue will be promoted and be part of a trail of highly visible women's statues across the UK with the organisation **VISIBLEWomenUK**.
- **Police advice** – 'Design out Crime' officers – consideration must be given to protecting the statue. The Police would like to see statues like this in a well-lit area, with CCTV and good footfall.
- **The Arts Council:** Recommend art on high streets. "The Arts Council believes that art and culture have an important role to play in helping to bring about positive change in local communities, and we look forward to supporting ventures which will help revitalise our high streets while getting people involved with the great things the arts have to offer."
- **Outdoor Arts UK** - "Outdoor art creates a rationale for visitors to make extra effort to attend, bring diverse communities together and help contribute to a destination's 'sense of place'. This strategy offers the vision and the know-how to improve high streets and town centres through creative solutions, from simple design enhancements to outdoor arts."
- **Public engagement:** Many people have expressed their views on social media or in person at our events. All have stated the importance of a central High Street position.

- **Statue Dimensions:** The statue will occupy a small space, standing upright at ground level. It will be life-and-a-quarter scale, taking up the space of a standing person. A seated work of art incorporating a bench has also been discussed (see examples below).

Considering these points, we can ensure the statue is accessible, engaging, secure, and beneficial for the community.

Possible Options

The locations below have been selected based on the above criteria and are situated on the pedestrianised High Street in the centre of Dorchester.

Option 1 – Cornhill outside Barclay’s Bank.



Option 2 – Outside Café One at the bottom end of the High Street.



Option 3 – On the High Street outside Dorchester Travel



Option 4 – Outside Gould’s would be a good spot for a seated bench statue.



Option 5 – The top end of Cornhill is a particularly cluttered section of the High Street, lacking cohesive planning and aesthetics. With thoughtful design, this entire area could be made significantly more attractive. This could also be a great spot for a seated bench statue.



Option 6 - This area next to NatWest Bank is currently unappealing, but a redesign of the street furniture could transform it into an attractive space, including space for a ground-level statue.



Statue Examples.

Showcasing ground-level interactive works of art in high footfall and central high-street locations



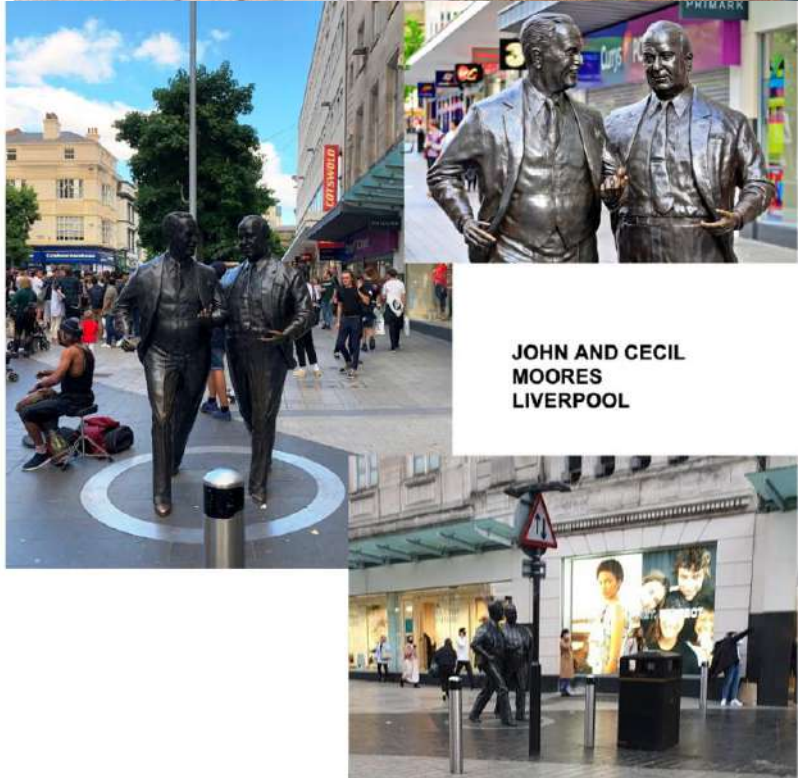
**VIRGINIA WOLF
RICHMOND**



**ELIZABETH ELMY
CONGLETON**



**CHARLOTTE MARY YONGE
EASTLEIGH**



**JOHN AND CECIL
MOORES
LIVERPOOL**



**CILLA BLACK
LIVERPOOL**



**WALKING WOMAN
COLCHESTER**



**MOTHER
SHIPTON
KNARESBOROUGH**



**TWIGGY
MAYFAIR**





THE
CRACKER
PACKERS
CARLISLE



ANNIE KENNY
OLDHAM

EMILY
DAVISON
EPSOM
MARKET
PLACE



THE DRAW &
CONNECTIVITY OF
STATUES IN OUR
SHARED LANDSCAPES



A Selection of VISIBLEWomenUK campaigns across the UK.



Henrietta Lacks - Bristol



Mary Clarke - Brighton



Elizabeth Elmy - Congleton



Aphra Benn - Canterbury



**Elaine Morgan
Pontypridd**



**Ada Nield Chew
Crewe**



**Match Girls
East End**



**Betty Campbell
Butetown**



**The Factory Girls
Derry**



**Mary Astell
Newcastle**



**Emily Williamson
Didsbury**



**Elsie Inglis
Edinburgh**

Sheroes Outreach & Schools Engagement So Far:

The Wey Valley Academy



Broadmayne First School



Thomas Hardy School



Chesil Pride



50 Years of Dorset Council



Dorset Youth Pride



Dates set for new academic year:

September, Sunninghill Preparatory School and The Prince of Wales School. Dates TBC for Dorchester Middle School and St Osmund's C Of E Middle School.

Date for the Diary:

A Sheroes Evening at Athelhampton

by kind permission of Giles Keating

Join us on the 27th of September for an unforgettable evening as we celebrate the remarkable and unsung women of our past. Our Champagne & Canapés fundraising event will reveal the final vote count and announce our winning Shero. Expect a night filled with inspiring stories, as Dorset's finest come together to champion these extraordinary women. Stay tuned for more details.